Northwest Territories
Quarterly Economic Indicators

Third Quarter 1995

Commentary

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Tables

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Quarterly Economic Indicators
Third Quarter 1995

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Quarterly Economic Indicators
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Overview

Current indicators of territorial economic activity show that the economy continued to expand during the third quarter of 1995. For Canada as a whole, the economy also improved during the quarter with real gross domestic product increasing by 0.5% following a slight downturn in the second quarter.

For the third quarter, territorial employment posted yet another gain on a seasonally adjusted basis while average weekly earnings also rose compared to a modest decrease during the previous quarter. Labour income also grew marginally during the quarter. New claims for unemployment insurance were lower although the seasonally adjusted count of persons receiving regular benefits rose following three consecutive quarters of decline. In addition, increased consumer spending on a seasonally adjusted basis points to yet further growth in territorial retail sales. For the mining sector, mining claims were up while the production of gold and zinc declined.

Compared to the first three quarters of 1994, year-to-date growth in the territorial economy outpaced rises seen nationally for most indicators. To illustrate, territorial employment and labour income increases were well above nationally observed rates of growth – despite a marginally lower growth in average weekly earnings territorially. There was also a greater reduction in new claims for unemployment insurance while growth in territorial retail sales was well above the national average. By contrast, lower declines were observed for unemployment insurance recipient counts and benefit payments compared to the national average. Further, the reduction in territorial housing investment was well above that observed nationally.

Employment

During the third quarter of 1995, territorial employment was estimated at 24,140 persons working for wages and salaries – an increase of 5% from the second quarter of 1995. On a seasonally adjusted basis, only slight increases in employment were recorded both nationally and territorially.

Looking at the first nine months of 1995, territorial employment was 5% higher compared to the same period in 1994 while employment growth nationally stood at 2%.

For the territorial service sector industries, an estimated 19,700 persons were employed during third quarter 1995 – up 2% from the previous quarter. Compared to the first three quarters of 1994, service sector employment was 5% higher.

Employment in territorial goods producing industries rose by 20% during the third quarter for a total of 4,200 persons working – some 680 more jobs than the previous quarter. For the first nine months of 1995, goods sector employment was 5% higher.

Wages and Prices

Average Weekly Earnings

During third quarter 1995, territorial workers continued to be paid the highest average weekly earnings in Canada at $719 per week compared to the national average of $574. Within the Northwest Territories, average weekly earnings paid by the goods producing sector remained considerably higher than those paid to service sector employees – at $885 compared to $684 per week.

Territorial average weekly earnings rose 3% overall during the third quarter of 1995, reflecting a 3% rise in service industry earnings and a 2% decline for the goods producing sector.

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Territorial average weekly earnings rose 3% overall during the third quarter of 1995, reflecting a 3% rise in service industry earnings and a 2% decline for the goods producing sector.

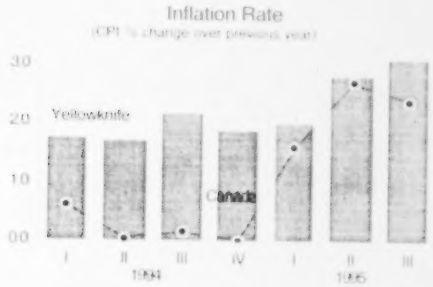
Over the same period, national average weekly earnings rose 1%. When compared to the first nine months of 1994, both territorial and national average weekly earnings rose 1% during the year.

Labour Income

During third quarter 1995, territorial labour income rose 6% while national labour income increased 2%. When adjusted for seasonality, however, territorial labour income increased only slightly for the quarter while rising less than 1% nationally. Compared to the first nine months of 1994, territorial labour income was 4% higher while the national increase was 3%.

Consumer Prices

During the third quarter of 1995, the Yellowknife consumer price index (CPI) rose by 1.3% while the corresponding national rise in consumer price stood at 0.2%. Compared to 1994, Yellowknife consumer prices were 2.8% higher year to date while national consumer prices were some 2.2% higher.



Unemployment Insurance

Territorial unemployment insurance payments (regular benefits) fell by 28% during the third quarter of 1995. On a year-to-date basis, these payments were 9% lower when compared to the first nine months of 1994. Nationally, payments fell 18% during the third quarter and were down by 20% year to date.

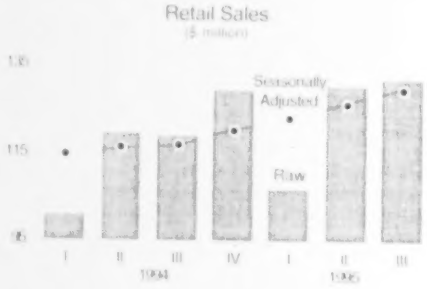
During the third quarter, the count of persons receiving unemployment insurance regular benefits territorially rose 4% on a seasonally adjusted basis. Compared to the first nine months of 1994, however, there was a 14% decline in recipients. Nationally, recipient counts rose by just over 1% during the quarter (seasonally adjusted) but were 20% lower when compared to the first three quarters of 1994.

A total of 970 new claims for unemployment insurance benefits (all benefit types) were allowed during third quarter 1995 – down 13% from the previous quarter. Compared to the first three quarters of 1994, however, territorial claims for unemployment insurance benefits were 2% lower. Nationally, new UI claims rose 9% during the quarter and were slightly lower year to date.

Consumer Demand

Retail Sales

Based on unadjusted data, 1995 third quarter retail sales totaled $132 million for the territory – some 1% higher than sales figures for the previous quarter. By comparison, territorial retail trade was 2% higher on a seasonally adjusted basis. Nationally, retail sales grew by 1% on a seasonally adjusted basis during the quarter.



For the first nine months of 1995, territorial retail sales were up 9% compared to the same period the previous year. Nationally, retail sales were 3% higher compared to 1994 figures.

Housing

Housing investment grew by 33% during third quarter 1995 but stood at 20% below 1994 levels year to date. By comparison, housing investment expanded 11% nationally during the quarter while being 13% lower compared to 1994 for the first three quarters of the year. Similarly, the value of residential building permits issued by territorial tax-based municipalities increased 17% during the quarter and were 13% lower year to date.

For Yellowknife, there were 43 housing starts during the third quarter – 2 starts fewer than during the same period in 1994. Year to date, however, housing starts were 75 percent higher compared to 1994.

Over the same period, national average weekly earnings rose 1%. When compared to the first nine months of 1994, both territorial and national average weekly earnings rose 1% during the year.

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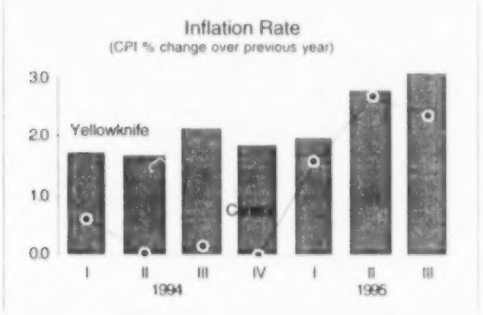

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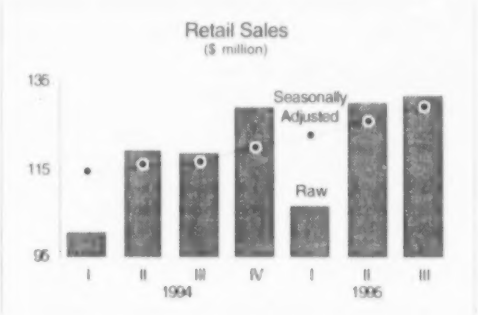

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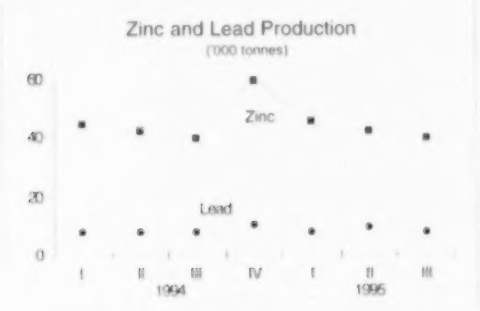
Mining, Oil and Gas

Mining Claims

A total of 2,064 mining claims were recorded during the third quarter of the year – up 730 claims from the second quarter of 1995. Mining claims totaled 3,531 year to date – 12% higher than observed for the same three quarters of 1994.

Metals

Lead production dropped 24% during the third quarter while zinc output declined by 5%. On a year-to-date basis, however, lead production was 9% higher and zinc production was up 2%.



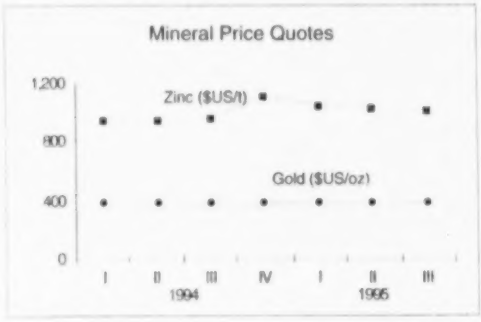
Silver production fell 15% during the third quarter while gold production declined slightly. Year to date, gold output was 18% higher while silver production decreased by 13%.

Mineral Fuels

Crude oil production declined by 1% during the third quarter of 1995 while production was little changed year over year. Natural gas production fell 22% during the third quarter but was 8% higher year to date.

Mineral Price Quotes (US$)

During third quarter 1995, zinc prices fell 4% while gold prices declined 1%. Prices for lead were unchanged. Compared to the first nine months of 1994, prices for zinc were 2% higher while lead prices rose 9%. Gold prices were marginally lower year over year.



Crude oil prices decreased 7% during the third quarter of 1995 and were marginally lower year to date when compared to the same period in 1994.

Statistical Tables

NOTES TO TABLES

- CHARTERED BANK RATES refer to the last Wednesday of the quarter.
- Municipalities surveyed for BUILDING PERMITS include Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, Iqaluit, Norman Wells and Yellowknife.
- CORPORATE REGISTRY figures refer to end of quarter data.
- CAPITAL EXPENDITURE figures are revised intentions for the reference year and preliminary actuals for the previous year.
- MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURES figures are intentions for the reference year and preliminary actuals for the previous year.

SYMBOLS

- \- zero or too small to be expressed
- .. not available
- ... not appropriate

Quarterly Data

	95-Q3	95-Q2	94-Q3	-- % change from -- 95-Q2	94-Q3	-- Year to Date -- 95-Q3	94-Q3	Percent Change
GENERAL								
POPULATION								
Natural Increase	345	340	345	1.5	-	990	1,010	-2.0
Net Migration	-269	-284	-32	...	...	-505	-222	...
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX								
Yellowknife (1986=100)	133.8	132.1	129.3	1.3	3.5	132.2	128.6	2.8
Canada (1986=100)	133.9	133.6	130.8	0.2	2.4	133.4	130.5	2.2
CHARTERED BANK RATES								
Prime Business Loan	8.0	8.8	7.0	-8.6	14.3	8.0	7.0	14.3
Mortgage - 1 year	8.1	8.0	8.0	1.6	1.6	8.1	8.0	1.6
EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME								
EMPLOYMENT								
All Industries (persons)	24,138	22,994	23,484	5.0	2.8	23,104	21,912	5.4
Seasonally Adjusted	23,086	22,991	22,465	0.4	2.8	22,992	21,825	5.3
Goods Producing Industries	4,194	3,511	4,316	19.5	-2.8	3,668	3,499	4.8
Service Producing Industries	19,721	19,286	18,958	2.3	4.0	19,234	18,273	5.3
Canada Total ('000 persons)	10,836	10,772	10,648	0.6	1.8	10,637	10,406	2.2
Seasonally Adjusted	10,684	10,649	10,498	0.3	1.8	10,634	10,406	2.2
AVERAGE EARNINGS								
All Industries ($ per week)	719	701	699	2.5	2.9	710	704	0.9
Seasonally Adjusted	721	706	701	2.1	2.9	711	706	0.7
Goods Producing Industries	885	902	829	-1.9	6.7	901	876	2.8
Service Producing Industries	684	665	669	2.9	2.2	674	672	0.4
Canada Total ($ per week)	574	570	570	0.8	0.8	572	566	1.0
Seasonally Adjusted	573	570	568	0.5	0.8	572	566	1.0
Fixed Weighted Index (1986=100)	143.2	142.0	138.6	0.8	3.3	142	141	0.8
Canada Total (1986=100)	138.0	137.9	135.0	0.1	2.2	138	135	2.3
LABOUR INCOME								
All Industries ($ million)	366	344	355	6.4	3.2	1,034	991	4.3
Seasonally Adjusted	347	346	336	0.2	3.3	1,033	990	4.3
Canada Total ($ billion)	107	105	104	1.5	2.8	313	303	3.1
Seasonally Adjusted	105	104	102	0.6	2.6	313	303	3.2
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE								
PAYMENTS								
Regular Benefits ($'000)	3,998	5,581	4,548	-28.4	-12.1	15,992	17,620	-9.2
Canada Total ($ million)	2,028	2,475	2,530	-18.1	-19.9	7,725	9,631	-19.8
RECIPIENTS (monthly avg.)								
Regular Benefits (no.)	947	1,327	1,167	-28.6	-18.9	1,256	1,457	-13.8
Seasonally Adjusted	1,250	1,203	1,417	3.9	-11.8	1,242	1,423	-12.7
Canada Total ('000)	608	723	762	-15.9	-20.3	756	943	-19.9
Seasonally Adjusted	727	718	883	1.3	-17.7	733	918	-20.1
INITIAL CLAIMS ALLOWED (no.)	970	1,120	940	-13.4	3.2	3,300	3,360	-1.8
Canada Total ('000)	536	494	540	8.6	-0.8	1,726	1,730	-0.2

Quarterly Data

	95-Q3	95-Q2	94-Q3	-- % change from -- 95-Q2	94-Q3	-- Year to Date -- 95-Q3	94-Q3	Percent Change
BUSINESS ACTIVITY								
RETAIL TRADE								
Total Sales ($ million)	131.6	130.4	118.5	0.9	11.1	368.4	338.4	8.9
Seasonally Adjusted	129.3	126.4	116.6	2.3	10.9	378.2	347.3	8.9
Canada ($ billion)	53.9	55.1	52.4	-2.2	2.8	154.5	149.7	3.2
Seasonally Adjusted	53.5	52.9	51.8	1.0	3.2	159.2	154.0	3.4
RESTAURANT, CATERER & TAVERN RECEIPTS ($'000)	..	..	10,198	..	..	..	27,516	..
SALES OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS ('000 cubic meters)	169	99	191	69.9	-11.9	410	453	-9.6
CORPORATE REGISTRY (no.)	2,201	2,150	2,256	2.4	-2.4	2,201	2,256	-2.4
HOUSING INVESTMENT ($'000)	15,639	11,798	19,764	32.6	-20.9	35,785	44,793	-20.1
Canada Total ($ million)	9,309	8,365	11,292	11.3	-17.6	22,962	26,395	-13.0
BUILDING PERMITS								
Value of Construction ($'000)	23,238	23,202	29,825	0.2	-22.1	55,137	66,255	-16.8
Residential	15,066	12,932	14,995	16.5	0.5	30,233	34,732	-13.0
Non-Residential	8,172	10,270	14,830	-20.4	-44.9	24,904	31,523	-21.0
HOUSING STARTS (Yellowknife)	43	79	45	-45.6	-4.4	144	82	75.6
NATURAL RESOURCES								
MINING CLAIMS								
Recorded (no.)	2,064	1,333	1,112	54.8	85.6	3,531	3,148	12.2
Area ('000 ha.)	1,739	1,080	914	60.9	90.3	2,988	2,480	20.5
METAL PRODUCTION								
Gold (kg)	4,006	4,019	3,300	-0.3	21.4	11,480	9,769	17.5
Silver (kg)	3,711	4,352	5,467	-14.7	-32.1	13,008	14,908	-12.7
Lead (tonnes)	7,373	9,721	7,782	-24.2	-5.3	25,550	23,365	9.4
Zinc (tonnes)	40,551	42,571	40,216	-4.7	0.8	128,953	127,004	1.5
MINERAL FUEL PRODUCTION								
Crude Oil ('000 cubic meters)	422	426	423	-0.9	-0.3	1,283	1,285	-0.2
Natural Gas ('000 cubic meters)	53,092	43,512	36,801	22.0	44.3	145,589	134,962	7.9
FISH LANDINGS (tonnes)	705	149	690	372.7	2.2	1,234	1,166	5.9
MINERAL PRICE QUOTES								
Gold ($US/oz)	383.2	387.4	388.2	-1.1	-1.3	383.9	384.8	-0.2
Silver ($US/oz)	5.3	5.4	5.4	-3.4	-3.0	5.2	5.4	-4.5
Lead ($US/t)	613.8	613.7	636.5	-	-3.6	609.4	558.4	9.1
Zinc ($US/t)	1,003.0	1,043.0	1,123.0	-3.8	-10.7	1,032.8	1,014.4	1.8
Crude Oil ($US/bbl)	17.7	19.1	18.1	-7.4	-2.2	18.4	18.5	-0.2

Annual Data

		Reference Year	Previous Year	Percent Change
ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS				
GDP at Market Prices ($ million):				
Current Dollars	1994	1,959	1,877	4.4
1986 Dollars	1994	1,653	1,624	1.8
GDP at Factor Cost ($ million)				
Current Dollars	1994	1,976	1,900	4.0
1986 Dollars	1994	1,544	1,511	2.2
Final Domestic Demand ($ million):				
Current Dollars	1994	2,429	2,415	0.6
1986 Dollars	1994	2,003	2,018	-0.7
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES				
All Industries ($ million)	1995	438	407	7.5
Government Services	1995	133	129	3.3
Housing	1995	50	58	-14.2
Mining, Quarrying & Oil Wells	1995	72	67	7.3
Education Services	1995	56	44	26.9
Construction	1995	4	4	-6.8
Other Industries	1995	123	105	17.1
Private Organizations	1995	189	149	26.9
Public Organizations	1995	249	259	-3.6
MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURES				
Mining - Field & Related Overhead ($'000)	1995	141,827	157,748	-10.1
VALUE OF MINERAL SHIPMENTS				
Total Shipments ($'000)	1994	689,033	584,866	17.8
Metals	1994	493,711	392,456	25.8
Gold	1994	220,552	197,043	11.9
Silver	1994	4,008	2,014	99.0
Lead	1994	26,791	15,289	75.2
Zinc	1994	242,359	178,110	36.1
Fuels	1994	188,456	183,629	2.6
Crude Oil	1994	171,262	165,219	3.7
Natural Gas	1994	9,054	10,749	-15.8
VALUE OF FUR PRODUCTION				
Total Value ($'000)	1993-94	1,056	962	9.8
VALUE OF FISH HARVEST				
Landed Value ($'000)	1993-94	1,035	1,411	-26.7
AIR TRAFFIC				
Take-Offs & Landings (no.)	1994	219,508	203,561	7.8

For further information contact:

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